

Bureau of Land Management Supplemental EIS

SILVER STATE SOLAR POWER SOUTH

Photovoltaic Solar Energy Project

September 2011

Las Vegas Field Office/Nevada

BLM

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) for the proposed Silver State South Solar Energy Project (Silver State South Project). Silver State Solar Power South, LLC, a subsidiary of First Solar Development, Inc. has submitted an application for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a solar energy generation site on public lands adjacent to the town of Primm, Nevada (north of the California/Nevada border). The first step in the SEIS process is public scoping to identify issues and concerns that should be addressed in the SEIS. The 60-day public scoping period for the Silver State South Project ends on October 31, 2011.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

First Solar Development, Inc. is proposing to develop an approximately 350 megawatt (MW) solar energy facility on public lands. The application specifies that the photovoltaic solar power plant facility would be located north of the Nevada/California border on approximately 2,900 acres of public lands within a right-of-way grant application area of 13,043 acres.

The facility would have the capacity to generate enough electricity to power over 110,000 households. This assumes an average California household use of approximately 7,000 kilowatt hours per year.

The proposed project would require the construction of a 350 MW photovoltaic solar generating facility with associated facilities including a substation, generation tie line, interconnection facilities, and an operation and maintenance building.

The exact areas of each component are subject to change as the project design develops and the SEIS process proceeds.



THE EIS PROCESS

The proposed facilities would be on public land managed by the BLM; therefore, approval of the project is considered a Federal action requiring review under and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Under NEPA, BLM must consider the potential effects of the Silver State South Project on the environment including human, natural, and cultural resources.

Human

Environment- land use, social and economic conditions, environmental justice, visual characteristics, and noise

Natural

Environment- air, geology, soils, water, vegetation, wildlife, special status, and avian species

Cultural

Environment- prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and traditional cultural lifeways, and resources

